Message Text

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O 282207Z MAY 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCITS

1. FOLLOWING IS PERTINENT EXCERPT FROM AP WIRE SERVICE STORY FILED MAY 28 FROM DAR ES SALAAM: QTE U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TODAY THAT THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT IS DOING "NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE" TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF TWO AMERICAN STUDENTS AND A DUTCH GIRL HELD FOR MORE THAN A WEEK BY GUERRILLAS IN EASTERN ZAIRE. "OUR DIPLOMATS CAN'T GET TO SEE THE ZAIRE OFFICIALS THEY WANT TO SEE," LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID A SPOKESMAN AT THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE IN DAR ES SALAAM,

THE TANZANIAN CAPITAL. "PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT THAT THE GUERRILLAS EXIST." U.S. DIPLOMATS SAID THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS "PRETTY UPSET" BECAUSE TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE'S FLATLY REJECTED THE DEMANDS UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPT. GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR MAY 28 NOON PRESS BRIEFING: QTE QUESTION: THERE ARE REPORTS FROM DAR ES SALAAM QUOTING U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AS EXPRESSING BELIEF THAT THE TANZANIA GOVERNMENT ACTED TOO HASTILY IN REJECTING THE DEMANDS OF THE KIDNAPPERS. IS THIS TRUE?

ANSWER: OUR AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA, W. BEVERLY CARTER, EXPRESSED OUR VIEW WHEN HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS FOR THE TANZANIANS TO DECIDE HOW THEY RESPOND TO DEMANDS OR CONDITIONS PUT TO THEM. WE APPRECIATE THE PROBLEM THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN THIS MATTER, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH THAT GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TO FIND WAYS OF OBTAINING THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS

AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE TANZANIANS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS NATHANIEL DAVIS HAD A FRUITFUL MEETING LATE YESTERDAY WITH TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR PAUL BOMANI IN DAR ES SALAAM, AMBASSADOR CARTER TOLD THE PRESS TODAY THAT HE "HAS BEEN SATISFIED" WITH THE COOPERATION EXTENDED BY THE TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES.

QUESTION: THESE SAME PRESS REPORTS FROM DAR ES SALAAM QUOTE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AS INDICATING THE DEPARTMENT IS UNHAPPY OVER ZAIRE'S PERFORMANCE. IS THIS TRUE?

ANSWER: ABSOLUTELY NOT. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT, WE HAVE HAD THE COOPERATION OF THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE REGULAR AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT, AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH THAT GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO FURTHER STEPS. INCIDENTALLY, A SIMILAR QUESTION WAS RAISED AT AMBASSADOR CARTER'S PRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE TODAY IN DAR ES SALAAM. AMBASSADOR CARTER POINTED OUT THAT HIS COUNTERPART IN KINSHASA, AMBASSADOR DEANE HINTON, IS IN "ALMOST DAILY CONTACT" WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MANDUNGU BULA. "I DO NOT GET THE IMPRESSION," MR. CARTER SAID, "THAT HE IS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES."

3. IN COURSE OF MAY 28 BRIEFING, REPORTERS PRESSED DEPT.

SPOKESMAN HARD ON QUESTION OF WHAT SPECIFIC MEASURES GOZ IS TAKING TO ASSIST IN RECOVERY OF HOSTAGES. TRANSCRIPT FOLLOWS.

4. DEPENDING ON LOCAL REACTIONS EMBASSY KINSHASA MAY WISH TO A) CONVEY CLARIFICATION CONTAINED PARA TWO ABOVE TO GOZ, AND B) ISSUE PRESS STATEMENT OF ITS OWN INCORPORATING POINTS CONTAINED SAME PARA. INGERSOLL

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Subject: KIDNAPPED AMCITS TAGS: CASC, (SMITH, HUNTER) To: KINSHASA

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